

genuine backwater in international affairs, a little country with no geopolitical importance, no raw materials, no seaport, no beautiful beaches, no ski resorts.

Why should I, or anyone else, care a whit about Laos?

The Lao people have no Dalai Lama to win friends and influence Hollywood; their ancient royal family is also in exile but commands no attention. Their holy relic, the Prabang Buddha statue, is rumored to be in Moscow, hidden away as a now-forgotten and irrelevant trophy of the Cold War.

Fifty thousand Hmong people from Laos now live in Minnesota, along with some 7,000 ethnic Lao. But is that any reason to care about the tiny, faraway homeland of a people who don't speak English?

Life in Laos is hard, especially for the Hmong, for the ethnic Khamu people and for the poor. The country's Communist leadership is awful. There are arbitrary arrests, no economic development, lousy schools, no free speech. Corruption is rampant.

The self-centered whims of Communist Party cadres are the law.

Opium is still a cash crop in Laos, feeding the world's supply of heroin. Communist officials, it is said, protect and profit from the vile traffic.

With help from the United States, many Lao and Hmong fought the Communists until 1973. Then, the United States walked away to "give peace a chance," as John Lennon demanded.

Today, years later, fighting still goes on. The Hmong in the hills are still loyal to the cause of the United States in the Cold War. They don't understand why the Americans went into a sulk and gave up fighting an evil political movement.

In December and January, and again in March, Communist Lao forces numbering several battalions attacked Hmong hamlets on the slopes of the Phu Bia mountain massif. Communist forces were repulsed. Their wounded filled the military hospital in the capital city of Vientiane.

In the far south of Laos, the Khamu people have turned against their former patrons—Lao and Vietnamese Communists. Young Khamu men have taken to the jungles to fight and put on their left arms the white elephant patch of the Lao royal family.

American officials in Vientiane make the best of a tour of duty in a place that counts for nothing except oppression. They argue for a form of appeasement, calling it "constructive engagement."

Poor little Laos: Back then, its needs were hidden behind the secrecy of an unpublicized war. The grim fighting, the terror for innocent villagers, the heroism of the Hmong, the illegalities of the Vietnamese Communists in invading a neutral country were out of sight and out of mind for the experts and gurus whose duty it is to tell our collective national psyche when, and how, and for whom to emote compassion.

Today, Laos is equally forgotten and still the victim of that past war. The bad guys won.

In putting Laos out of sight, America has abandoned its honor.

Promises were made to the peoples of Laos by the American government, among others. International agreements were signed in 1962 by all the great powers, pledging peace, neutrality, multiparty government. In 1973 the promises were renewed; yet again treaties were signed. International law protected the peoples of Laos, so it was said. Henry Kissinger got a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

In 1975 the Communists broke their agreements, killed the king, queen, crown prince and many others—all to impose the justice of a really stupid ideology and, let us not forget, to gain a little *joie de vivre* for themselves.

A solution to the continuing troubles in Laos is at hand. The Communists need only return to the agreements they signed in 1962 and 1973, restoring coalition government, the monarchy and human freedoms. Such a Laos would be a buffer between Thailand and Vietnam, adding to the peaceful stability of Southeast Asia. Such a Laos would also protect Vietnam from penetration by China through the mountains around Dien Bien Phu.

To forget the promises made is willfully to choose dishonor.

We can mediate successfully in Northern Ireland, we send troops to watch over ethnic brutality in Bosnia, we mobilize to crack down on Saddam Hussein's inhumanities. Why can't we care as well about Laos?

SENATE RESOLUTION 241—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE BARRY GOLDWATER, FORMERLY A SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ARIZONA

Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Barry Goldwater, formerly a Senator from the State of Arizona.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate recesses today, it stand recessed as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

NATIONAL TOBACCO POLICY AND YOUTH SMOKING REDUCTION ACT

MCCAIN (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 2446

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BOND, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COVERDELL, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. SESSIONS) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 1415) to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 403, beginning with line 3, strike through line 19 on page 407, and insert the following:

SEC. 1301. VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION TOBACCO-RELATED HEALTHCARE AND COMPENSATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Veterans' Administration shall use amounts under subsection (b) to carry out tobacco-related healthcare activities under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and to provide other appropriate assistance for to-

bacco-related veterans' health care illnesses and disability under such title.

(b) FUNDINGS.—From amounts in the trust fund established under section 40b not less than \$600,000,000 per year are to be used to carry out Veterans' Administration tobacco-related healthcare activities under subsection (a) to the extent and only in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts, to remain available until expended.

(c) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 1981C of the Public Health Service Act (as added by section 261 of this Act) is amended—

(1) by inserting "veterans," after "uninsured individuals," in subsection (a)(1)(D); and

(2) by inserting "veterans," in subsection (b)(1)(h) after "low-income,".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Tuesday, June 2, 1998, at 10 a.m. in open session, to consider the nominations of Dr. Hans Mark, to be Director of Defense Research and Engineering; Mahlon Apgar, IV, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics and Environment; and Joseph W. Westphal, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, June 2, 1998, at 10 a.m. on the nominations of Clyde Hart to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, Neal Lane to be Director and Rosina Bierbaum to be Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate for a hearing entitled "e-commerce & Y2K: What's Ahead for Small Business." The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 1998, in room 428A Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 2, 1998, at 10 a.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select